

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Statement of reason of Allowance

1. **Claims 10-18, 28-36, and 72-88 are allowed.**
2. **The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:**

The present invention is directed to a method, system, and program product for digital content access control, by using embedded content requests in a rights locker system for digital content access control.

The closest prior art, as previously recited, Buhse et al., (US 2004/0024652), Jiang et al., (US 7,136,631), and Mukherjee et al., (US 2003/0073440) are also generally directed to various aspects of distribution of digital products. However, none of Buhse, Jiang, and Mukherjee teaches or suggests, alone or in combination, the particular combination of steps or elements as recited in the independent claims, claims 1, 15, 28, 33, 72, and 85. For example, none of the cited prior art teaches or suggests the steps of *"determining, on a user device, a digital content specification and associated authenticated rights locker access request wherein said associated authenticated rights locker access request was authenticated by a right locker provider for the rights locker; sending, from said user device to said rights locker provider for the rights locker, said authenticated rights locker access request and said digital content specification; receiving, on said user device from said rights locker provider, a new authenticated*

rights locker access request for the rights locker and a Web page with one or more clickable links in response to said sending, at least one of said one or more clickable links associated with an authenticated digital content request; sending, from said user device, said new authenticated rights locker access request and an indication of the right associated with said one of said one or more clickable links to said rights locker provider; and receiving, on said user device from a digital content repository, said digital content in response to said sending said new authenticated rights locker access request.”

Therefore the claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luu Pham whose telephone number is 571-270-5002. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel L. Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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